



Dear Parents and Carers,

This is our 500th issue which is certainly a milestone. Many schools do not offer a weekly newsletter and those that do are unlikely to have sustained the publication for this length of time.



As autumn draws in, so does the yearly ritual of suggesting to children that the wearing of a coat would be a good idea. If that is troubling in any household, be assured that you are not alone. We can but try, and children's experience will have to be trusted - getting cold is one way to learn, although not recommended. We do ask that any outer garment is a coat and not a hoodie as these are not waterproof.

Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning.
Proverbs 9:9

Auditions for *Shrek - The Musical* have been taking place this week and the casting will be announced soon. If someone does not get a main part then there will be plenty of opportunity to be part of the chorus, which can be a lot of fun too.



This has been a long half term and the week's holiday arrives later than usual. Indeed, some counties have been on half term this past week, but they will break up earlier for Christmas while Worcestershire carries on until rather late. The result is that we return to school later in January. That said, the second half of the autumn term starts on **Monday 6th November** at 8.50am.



After we come back to school, we shall support the poppy appeal. Although the 11th November is a Saturday, we offer pupils the opportunity to buy a poppy, so if they ask for 20p, then the hope is that they will have a poppy on their jumper when they get home.

Rev. C. Leach, *Principal*

This week's theme was: Harvest

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

Deuteronomy 8: 7-10, NRSV

Father God,

We thank you for all you've given us. We thank you for the food that grows on the trees and in the ground. We are blessed to live in a place where we can choose between so many different foods to eat. We thank you for the hard work people have to do in order for us to have such foods. May you bless us as we remember your creation and bless the hands that look after it.

Amen.

Whole school Attendance

95.22%

Whole School Target

95.6%

16.10.2023 to 20.10.2023

Year 5 96.51 %

Year 6 95.03 %

Year 7 93.60 %

Year 8 96.30 %



For the week ahead

The Fruit of Faith is:	Friendliness	When others are happy, be happy with them, and when they are sad, be sad. Be friendly with everyone. Don't be proud and feel that you are smarter than others. Make friends with ordinary people. Don't mistreat someone who has mistreated you. But try to earn the respect of others. <i>Romans 12: 15-17</i>	
The assembly theme will be:	The Lord's Prayer	Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.... <i>Matthew 6: 9-13, NRSV</i>	
We ask your thoughts and prayers in the week ahead for:			
The weekend	a relaxing and restful half term for staff and pupils	Monday	those who are struggling in poverty
Tuesday	the teachers and support staff of St Luke's First School	Wednesday	the homeless as the weather temperature drops
Thursday	the NHS doctors, nurses and support staff	Friday	our upcoming Book Fayre

Picture of the Week



Tea plantations in Kericho, in the highlands of western Kenya



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

Safeguarding Newsletter Issue 3

Safety on the trick-or-treat trail

[Go to this Sway](#)



Gymnastics

After half term, in PE, pupils will be taking part in gymnastics, dance, OAA as part of the national curriculum.

Pupils are required, for health and safety, to be bare foot for gym and some of the dance activities; pupils may wear the following alternative (see link below), which comes from British Gymnastics and has been advised by a gymnastics coach. Other alternatives cannot be worn. Thank you for your cooperation, any questions please contact a member of the PE department.

[White Grip Socks](#) | [White Gymnastics Socks](#) | [British Gymnastics Official Shop \(british-gymnastics.org\)](#)



**FREE BOOKS
FOR YOUR
SCHOOL WHEN
YOU BUY AT
THE BOOK FAIR!**

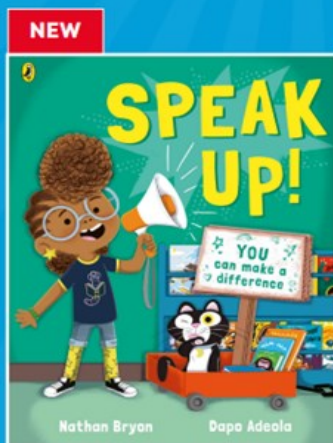
COME the **BOOK FAIR!**

**A POP-UP
BOOK-STORE WITH
HUNDREDS OF BOOKS
FROM JUST
£2.99**

**LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPED TO DONATE
OVER £5.3M BOOKS TO SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE**



£7.99 **£2.99**



£7.99



£7.99



£12.99 **£7.99**



£7.99



£6.99



Free books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organiser or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.

Art © Liz Pichon

Date:

Monday 6th November – Friday 10th November

Where: THE LIBRARY

Books from £1.00

Pay cash or pay online

**Scan the QR code
to pay online!**



My **BOOK FAIR** Wish List

IF YOU SPOT ANY BOOKS YOU LIKE AT THE BOOK FAIR, YOU CAN WRITE THEM DOWN ON YOUR WISH LIST BELOW.

NAME:

CLASS:

Title	Price

Information for Parents and Guardians

If you'd like to purchase any of the books your child has listed and want to avoid sending cash into school, you can pay online at www.travellingbooks.co.uk/pay or by purchasing Book Fair gift vouchers.

You can find out more about the books available and confirm prices at travellingbooks.co.uk/books

Pay Online: (this is a payment platform only, you do not enter your order)

Visit travellingbooks.co.uk/pay

If you're at the Book Fair, or if your child has attended and chosen their books, you can now pay online using our secure parent payment system. Once payment is complete, to place your order return this wish list to your school so your child's books can be supplied from the book fair.

Reference number:	Total order value: £
Books Purchased:	

Pay with Gift Vouchers:

Avoid handling cash with pre-paid gift vouchers. Visit travellingbooks.co.uk/parents to purchase, available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25.

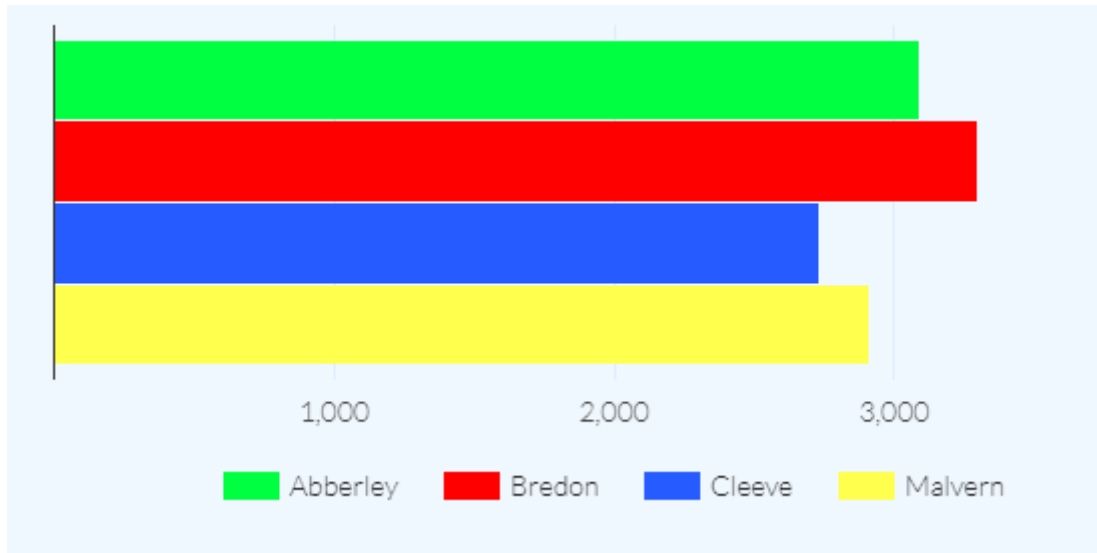
Gift Voucher code:	G000		
Gift Voucher value:	£	Total order value:	£

Scan the QR code to pay online!





epraise this week



Top Readers for 25.09.2023 — 25.10.2023



Congratulations to:

Top Girl

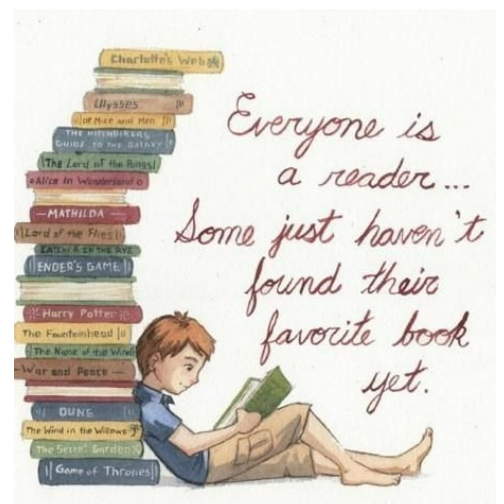
Eden Sherwood (Year 6 CPJE) - who has read 724,819 words .

Top Boy

Charlie Gardner (Year 8 MDL) - who has read 667,594 words..

Well done - 5 merits will be awarded to you both.

Keep reading Walkwood, next week it could be YOU ...



Knowing our curriculum

For information about the curriculum for each year group, please select:



[Year 5](#)

[Year 6](#)

[Year 7](#)

[Year 8](#)



For information about specific curriculum subjects, you will find the calendars here:

[Art and Technology](#)

[Computing](#)

[Drama](#)

[English](#)

[French](#)

[Mathematics](#)

[Music](#)

[Physical Education](#)

[Science](#)

[Spiritual & Social Education](#)



Additionally, for [Careers](#)

For the overall rationale for the way we have put the curriculum together, or for how the pastoral system operates, please select:

[Curriculum Rationale](#)

[Pastoral Strategy](#)



Walkwood

Church of England  Middle School

For information about our school:

www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk

Keeping children safe

The following information concerns how we continue to ensure that pupils are cared for within our school:

Early help: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/19c6-Early%20Help%20Offer.pdf>

E-safety: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/E-Safety>

Anti-bullying: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/f2c9-Anti-bullying%20Policy.pdf>

Attendance: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/53d7-Attendance%202018.pdf>

Prevent: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/25a5-Prevent%20Policy%202019.pdf>

Safeguarding: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Safeguarding-and-Child-Protection>

<https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/a297-Safeguarding%20Policy%202019.pdf>

Relationships and Sex Education: <https://www.walkwoodms.worcs.sch.uk/Content/files/9ca0-Relationships%20and%20Sex%20Education%20Policy%202019.pdf>



Reading matters



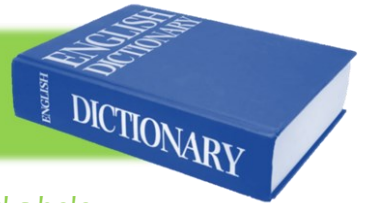
We hope that pupils enjoy the half term break and enjoy some rest. They may wish to do engage in some reading, and doing so for twenty minutes each day will certainly help pupils to make progress across all subjects of the curriculum. Pupils can access Renaissance from home to quiz on books read at home, via this link:

[Welcome \(renaissance-go.com\)](https://www.renaissance-go.com)

Keep up the wonderful reading, Walkwood.



Word of the Week



Each week, there is a word displayed here. If the pupils have a go at the tasks below linked to the weekly word, they will earn a point from their tutor. Once per fortnight the tutor will go through the previous two weeks' words and pupils will work collaboratively exploring their meanings, features and usage.

authority

1. What word class is this word? Could it belong to more than one word class?
2. How many syllables does it have?
3. Write the dictionary definition(s) of this word, using your own words.
4. What are the synonyms for the word?
5. What are the antonyms for the word?
6. Write four sentences, each containing the word.

Vary the type of sentence each time: write one as a statement; one as a question; one as a command and one as an exclamation sentence.

For example, if the Word of the Week were *exhilarated*:

Statement: Sam is feeling exhilarated this morning.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Five Nights at Freddy's is a series of indie point-and-click horror games whose word-of-mouth success and widespread spin-off content on YouTube have helped each of the nine instalments so far to sell almost five million copies on Steam (the PC gaming platform) alone. Set in various deserted locations at night, with creepy animatronic characters suddenly coming to life, the games are rated PEGI 12 for disturbing/violent content, mild profanity and horror themes.

FRIGHTENING THEMES

Five Nights at Freddy's (FNaF for short) doesn't feature bloodshed like many horror games – but it does build tension and use jump scares, which may be too intense for young players. The sinister animatronic characters and the sensation of being trapped and defenceless could be particularly unsettling, as could the inclusion of disturbing elements such as murder or possession by evil spirits.

STRESSFUL SITUATIONS

Due to FNaF's suspenseful atmosphere, it can be extremely stressful for players. Constantly checking that one's surroundings are safe is a crucial part of the gameplay and could create residual stress or even obsessive-compulsive behaviours. Several media reports have suggested that some younger children have experienced severe nightmares or sleep anxiety after playing games from the series.

IN-GAME SPENDING

FNaF doesn't foreground in-game purchasing as strongly as many other well-known games, but some titles in the series do offer additional content that promises to enhance the experience. Five Nights at Freddy's: Help Wanted, for instance, is complemented by a Halloween-themed expansion pack called 'Curse of Dreadbear' (costing £8.99), which unlocks new levels and mini-games.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As a result of FNaF's popularity, a sizeable YouTube community based on fan-made content has developed around the game. While the majority of this material is still child friendly, there are a number of channels which are geared more towards mature audiences: they contain adult and disturbing themes, for example, and (in some cases) age-inappropriate language.

PLAYING IN ISOLATION

Many parents will be relieved to learn that Five Nights at Freddy's is a single-player game which doesn't include any online chat functionality. Conversely, however, this could also make playing FNaF quite an isolating experience – especially if your child is spending a lot of time investigating the game's spooky, shadowy environments alone in their room, for example.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Five Nights at Freddy's doesn't have conventional parental controls. However, if you're concerned about the potential impacts of the game's themes and content, you can simply choose not to let your child play it. If they use an Android or iOS device for gaming, you can adjust Apple and Google's built-in parental controls to restrict your child's access to certain content.

TRY IT YOURSELF

Every child is different, of course, so it could be worth playing Five Nights at Freddy's yourself for a while to gauge how your young gamer might cope with the series' more frightening and disturbing aspects. If they're old enough, you could spend some time playing it together – after all, it usually only takes between two and ten minutes to complete a level.

LIMIT SPENDING

Unlike many popular titles, Five Night's at Freddy's doesn't bombard players with tempting in-game purchase offers. It's worth noting, however, that some instalments in the series do provide the option for players to spend real-world money. With that in mind, it's important to either keep a close eye on your child's expenditure or limit their access to digital payment options.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on Five Night's at Freddy's, or you're worried that the game's scary themes are taking a toll, watch out for warning signs. Young people may start to prioritise gaming over everyday essentials like schoolwork or sleep; irritability or a lack of concentration could also indicate that their gaming sessions are going on too long.

TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

Before you allow your child to play Five Nights at Freddy's, it's wise to have a conversation about the game so that they're aware of the potential risks. Ensure that your child understands that the series is purposely designed to be tense and unsettling, and that they should stop or take a break if the intensity of the gameplay is making them feel uncomfortable or putting them on edge.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



Clubs and Activities



Autumn Term 1

	Lunchtime 12.15 – 1.00pm	After School 3:30pm – 4:45pm
Monday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	
Tuesday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	Homework club (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Wednesday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI	Homework club (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only. <u>KS2 Girls Cricket Club</u> 3.30—4.45 (sign up only) 1 session on 8 November 23
Thursday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/CMI Choir will take place during 2nd sitting 12.35 - 1pm All members will need to collect a lunch pass from Mrs Laishley.	Homework club (3.30 – 4.45) DT hub Sign up only.
Friday	Lunch Club, Room 2, duration of lunch, KCR/LTI	



Trips and Visits



Date	Activity	Location	Open To	Cost	Leader
June 2024					
Fri 28 – Mon 1	Outward Bound	Osmington Bay, Weymouth	Y7	£ 330	Mr West
July 2024					
Wed 3 – Fri 5	Outward Bound	Brecon Beacons	Y5	£ 320	Mr Wootton
February 2025					
Sat 1 – Sat 8	Ski Trip	Obertauern, Aus- tria	Y5-Y7	£ 1659	Mrs Cull



Looking ahead



	Date	Event
2023	Monday 30 October to Friday 3 November	Half Term
	Monday 4 December	Parents' English KS2 Workshop 6.30 - 7.30pm
	Thursday 7 December	Year 5 theatre trip to Birmingham Rep
	Thursday 21 December	End of Term
	Monday 8 January	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 January	First day of the Spring Term
	Thursday 25 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 31 January	Y6, Y8 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 12 – Friday 16 February	Half Term
	Friday 22 March	End of Term
	Monday 8 April	Staff Development Day
	Tuesday 9 April	First day of the Summer Term
	Thursday 11 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Wednesday 17 April	Y5, Y7 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 7.00pm
	Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	Half Term
	Friday 19 July	End of Term